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Applicant(s):

Christian R. Thomas

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Mail Stop PCT **Commissioner for Patents** P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

This preliminary amendment is submitted in the above-identified national stage application of PCT/EP2003/014871 filed on even date herewith.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.